

Department of Neurosciences

Levetiracetam drug information

Levetiracetam is one of the newer antiepileptic drugs used to reduce the frequency of seizures. It is usually prescribed in combination with other antiepileptic drugs but can also be prescribed as a single medication. It is available in 250mg, 500mg, 750mg and 1000mg tablets. An oral solution of 100mg/ml is also available. A liquid concentrate is available for use as an infusion in hospital settings only.

Drug brand names

- Levetiracetam
- Keppra

Uses

Levetiracetam is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy.

Side effects

Levetiracetam is generally well tolerated. The side effects are dose related. The higher the dose, the more side effects one would experience. These side effects also tend to decrease over time and are only occasionally a significant problem. They disappear on reducing the dose or stopping the medication. In the event of any of these side effects, contact the epilepsy nurse (contact details are at the end of the leaflet), or your GP.

- The most commonly reported side effects in the adults are excessive sleepiness and muscle weakness.
- Some patients will experience dizziness, headache or lethargy.
- Some patients experience nausea, vomiting and a feeling of indigestion.
- Some patients experience a change in mood and behaviour.
- Medically dangerous side effects are exceptionally rare.

Contraception

There are no reports to indicate that Levetiracetam affects the contraceptive pill. Other methods of contraception such as injections, coil etc. may also be used.

Pregnancy

Inform your doctor before you conceive so that appropriate advice may be given. The effects of Levetiracetam in pregnancy are not yet known. Once you are pregnant, it is generally too late to make changes to medication. We recommend you take folic acid

5mg daily from at least eight weeks prior to conception until at least 13 weeks of pregnancy.

Drug Information

No significant drug interactions have been reported with other anti epileptic medication. However inform your doctor about any other medication you may be taking.

Other useful information

- You can take Levetiracetam at the same time as you take other medication.
- Keep a record of your seizures when you start any new medication. This will help to determine future drug dosages.
- Do not stop taking your medication suddenly and without consultation with your doctor.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember but do not take two doses at the same time or within six hours of each other.

Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Epilepsy nurse specialist on 01223 217992.

The information on this leaflet is not exhaustive. Please refer to the patient information leaflet prepared by the manufacturer of your drug which can be found in the medicine packaging.



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. You cannot smoke on site. For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free, 0800 169 0 169

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Informacje te można otrzymać w innych językach, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio. Zamówienia prosimy składać pod numerem: 01223 216032 lub wysyłając e-mail: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Se precisar desta informação num outro idioma, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio por favor telefone para o 01223 216032 ou envie uma mensagem para: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Если вам требуется эта информация на другом языке, крупным шрифтом или в аудиоформате, пожалуйста, обращайтесь по телефону 01223 216032 или на вебсайт patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Russian

若你需要此信息的其他語言版本、大字體版或音頻格式，請致電 01223 216032 或發郵件到: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese

Bu bilgiyi diger dillerde veya büyük baskılı ya da sesli formatta isterseniz lütfen su numaradan kontak kurun: 01223 216032 veya asagidaki adrese e-posta gönderin: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

এই তথ্য বাংলায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও টেপে পেতে চাইলে দয়া করে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করুন বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করুন।

Bengali

Document history

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